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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/631,855	08/03/2000	Richard Rowe	IGTECH.0007P	9950

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EXAMINER

DURAN, ARTHUR D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3622

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/631,855	Applicant(s) ROWE, RICHARD 50	
	Examiner Arthur Duran	Art Unit 3622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2004.
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-22 have been examined.

Response to Amendment

2. The Amendment filed on 7/7/04 is insufficient to overcome the Boushy reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 9-17, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boushy (US 5,761,647). Boushy is considered to disclose a method and system comprising:

issuing at least one chase voucher having a particular cash value associated therewith or at least one data storage element for storing data regarding accepted cash vouchers, including a value of said accepted cash vouchers or crediting a value associated with an accepted cash voucher or bill money or at least one container for storing accepted bill monies and cash vouchers with one another (column 1 lines 23-27);

accepting by said at least on gaming machine said at least one cash voucher or a scanner for reading information associated with said cash vouchers or at least one apparatus adapted to scan said cash vouchers to obtain value and identification information regarding each cash voucher (column 5 lines 58-60);

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crediting said particular cash value to a player of said at least one gaming machine (column 5 lines 60-64);

generating a record regarding said at least one accepted cash voucher (column 3 lines 13-16);

retrieving one or more cash vouchers from said at least one gaming machine (column 10 lines 40-64); and

comparing information from said one or more retrieved cash vouchers to information regarding said at least one accepted cash vouchers contained in said record or a computing device adapted to determine whether the value of said sorted and scanned cash vouchers is the same as the value of cash vouchers accepted to said container (column 5 lines 65-67). Boushy is considered to also disclose the claimed sorting mechanism arranged to sort bill monies and cash vouchers retrieved from said at least one gaming machine or at least one apparatus adapted to sort cash vouchers from said bill monies retrieved from said at least one container (column 6 lines 1-8), high speed scanner (column 7 lines 1-12), reject area with soft count and hand-held scanner (column 9 lines 26-53), storing cash vouchers and bill monies after crediting with scanning (column 9 lines 40-53).

Also, The Merriam-Webster online dictionary at www.m-w.com defines 'cash' as:

"1 : ready money

2 : money or its equivalent (as a check) paid for goods or services at the time of purchase or delivery",

and 'voucher' as:

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“1 : an act of vouching

2 a : a piece of supporting evidence : **PROOF** b : a documentary record of a business transaction

c : a written affidavit or authorization : **CERTIFICATE** d : a form or check indicating a credit against future purchases or expenditures”.

Hence, the ‘cash voucher’ of the independent claims is open to a broad interpretation.

Boushy further discloses points that can be utilized as equivalent for cash or exchanged for cash (col 3, lines 12-17; col 12, lines 10-17; col 12, lines 35-40) and the utilization of vouchers and points for the exchange or reception of cash (col 10, lines 45-55).

Boushy’s points are functionally equivalent to a cash voucher and can be utilized or redeemed for gifts, services, or cash (col 3, lines 8-22; Abstract). Note that the Abstract refers explicitly to points being redeemed for cash.

Boushy further discloses that casino services include gaming (col 1, lines 20-27).

Boushy further discloses tracking customer activity (col 1, lines 5-10).

Boushy further discloses retrieving customer activity from gaming machines, that customer’s enter data into gaming machines, that casino’s verify accounting transactions across different systems (col 5, lines 35-65).

Boushy further discloses retrieving customer activity from gaming machines (col 2, lines 5-15) and that customer activity can be utilizing points at a gaming machine (col 3, lines 8-22; Abstract; col 1, lines 20-27).

Additionally, Boushy discloses a gaming machine (Fig. 2b; Fig. 3) and

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
4. Claims 2-8, 18, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boushy in view of Luciano et al. (US 6,500,067).

Boushy discloses the claimed invention as discussed above in the anticipatory rejection except for the step of accepting and crediting at a gaming machine including retrieving money and reading cash vouchers, bar code, unique identifying element, reconciling and sorting, and laser-beam scanner.

Luciano is considered to disclose the step of accepting and crediting at a gaming machine including retrieving money and reading cash vouchers unique identifying element, and reconciling and sorting (column 5 lines 23-43). Furthermore it would have been a matter of design choice to use bar codes and laser beam scanners to perform the transactions as claimed by the applicant. It would have been obvious to those skilled in the art to combine the teachings

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of Boushy with the design choice features and teachings of Luciano to allow accountable actions between cash vouchers and bill monies such that monies and credits can be transferred without a loss of value while employing modern data and information reading, such as those used by bar code and laser beam scanners.

Additionally, Boushy discloses a gaming machine (Fig. 2b; Fig. 3) and Luciano discloses the utilization of a gaming machine (col 2, lines 40-45) as well as other gaming devices, gaming terminals, etc (page 11 of the Applicant's Amendment dated 7/7/04).

The online Merriam-Webster dictionary at www.m-w.com defines 'device' as:

"...a piece of equipment or a mechanism designed to serve a special purpose or perform a special function",

and 'machine' as,

"...a mechanically, electrically, or electronically operated device for performing a task <a calculating *machine*> <a card-sorting *machine*> **g** : a coin-operated device".

Hence, Luciano explicitly discloses a gaming machine and Luciano's gaming device or gaming terminal is functionally equivalent to a gaming machine.

Luciano further discloses that the voucher can be utilized at a gaming terminal and that the central system tracks retrieves, tracks, organizes, and verifies the utilization of vouchers (col 1, lines 40-col 2, line 15).

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boushy in view of Holch et al. (US 5,800,269).

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Boushy discloses the claimed invention as discussed above in the anticipatory rejection except for the claimed single apparatus to sort and scan. Holch is considered to the claimed single apparatus to sort and scan (column 4 lines 15-25). It would have been obvious to those skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Boushy with the teachings of Holch to allow accountable actions between cash vouchers and bill monies such that monies and credits can be transferred without a loss of.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are not found persuasive.

Examiner notes that while specific references were made to the prior art, it is actually also the prior art in its entirety and the combination of the prior art in its entirety that is being referred to.

Examiner further notes that it is the Applicant's claims as stated in the Applicant's claims that are being rejected with the prior art.

Applicant's claims do not state that the 'cash voucher' is a paper cash voucher or electronic cash voucher or what form the cash voucher is in.

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary at www.m-w.com defines 'cash' as:

“1 : ready money

2 : money or its equivalent (as a check) paid for goods or services at the time of purchase or delivery”,

and 'voucher' as:

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“1 : an act of vouching

2 a : a piece of supporting evidence : **PROOF** b : a documentary record of a business transaction

c : a written affidavit or authorization : **CERTIFICATE** d : a form or check indicating a credit against future purchases or expenditures”.

Hence, the ‘cash voucher’ of the independent claims is open to a broad interpretation.

Boushy further discloses points that can be utilized as equivalent for cash or exchanged for cash (col 3, lines 12-17; col 12, lines 10-17; col 12, lines 35-40) and the utilization of vouchers and points for the exchange or reception of cash (col 10, lines 45-55).

Boushy’s points are functionally equivalent to a cash voucher and can be utilized or redeemed for gifts, services, or cash (col 3, lines 8-22; Abstract). Note that the Abstract refers explicitly to points being redeemed for cash.

Boushy further discloses that casino services include gaming (col 1, lines 20-27).

Boushy further discloses tracking customer activity (col 1, lines 5-10).

Boushy further discloses retrieving customer activity from gaming machines, that customer’s enter data into gaming machines, that casino’s verify accounting transactions across different systems (col 5, lines 35-65).

Boushy further discloses retrieving customer activity from gaming machines (col 2, lines 5-15) and that customer activity can be utilizing points at a gaming machine (col 3, lines 8-22; Abstract; col 1, lines 20-27).

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on

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combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Additionally, Boushy discloses a gaming machine (Fig. 2b; Fig. 3) and Luciano discloses the utilization of a gaming machine (col 2, lines 40-45) as well as other gaming devices, gaming terminals, etc (earlier reference and page 11 of the Applicant's Amendment dated 7/7/04).

The online Merriam-Webster dictionary at www.m-w.com defines 'device' as:

"...a piece of equipment or a mechanism designed to serve a special purpose or perform a special function",

and 'machine' as,

"...a mechanically, electrically, or electronically operated device for performing a task <a calculating *machine*> <a card-sorting *machine*> g : a coin-operated device".

Hence, Luciano explicitly discloses a gaming machine and Luciano's gaming device or gaming terminal is functionally equivalent to a gaming machine.

Luciano further discloses that the voucher can be utilized at a gaming terminal and that the central system tracks retrieves, tracks, organizes, and verifies the utilization of vouchers (col 1, lines 40-col 2, line 15).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

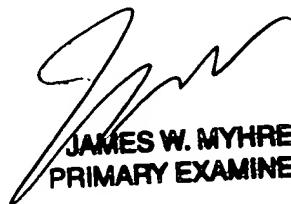
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur Duran whose telephone number is (703)305-4687. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (703)305-8469. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AD

9/13/04


JAMES W. MYHRE
PRIMARY EXAMINER